

## MARYLAND'S COVID-19 RECOVERY

*"We must all learn to live with this virus, not to live in fear of it... We'll keep fighting back with everything we've got, but make no mistake about it, we are moving forward full speed ahead, and we will continue to lead the nation in both health and economic recovery." — Governor Larry Hogan*

### END OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY

As Maryland emerges from the Omicron variant wave faster than just about any state, Governor Hogan announced that the 30-day state of emergency will come to an end tomorrow, and the state's ongoing long-term public health response will continue.

- Maryland's COVID-19 case rate has declined by nearly 85%, and the state is reporting the **lowest case rate in the country**.
- Maryland's COVID-19 positivity rate has declined by nearly 75%, and the state is reporting the **fifth-lowest positivity rate in the country**.
- Maryland's COVID-19 hospitalizations have declined by 56%, and the state's **hospitalizations are dropping at the fastest rate in the country**.
- Maryland has surpassed 11 million COVID-19 vaccines administered, including 2 million COVID-19 booster shots, and 94.7% of adults have received at least one dose.

Governor Hogan has taken a number of actions during the 30-day of state emergency, including:

- Enacting executive orders to assist hospitals and nursing homes in **addressing staffing shortages**;
- Mobilizing **1,000 members of the Maryland National Guard**;
- Standing up **hospital-based testing sites** and acquiring more **rapid at-home test kits**;
- Distributing more than 20 million **N95/KN95 masks**;
- Expanding **testing for staff and visitors at nursing homes**; and
- Ordering a new round of **antibody testing for nursing home residents**.



## **\$4.6 BILLION TAX RELIEF PACKAGE FOR HARDWORKING MARYLAND FAMILIES, SMALL BUSINESSES, AND RETIREES**

*"Our fiscal health and our economy are stronger than they have been in decades, but changing Maryland for the better means continuing to help the working families and seniors on fixed income who are getting squeezed by inflation and higher costs." —Governor Larry Hogan*

### **RETIREMENT TAX ELIMINATION ACT**

Governor Hogan called on the General Assembly to pass the Retirement Tax Elimination Act of 2022 to address the state's sky-high retirement taxes and help Maryland effectively compete with other states.

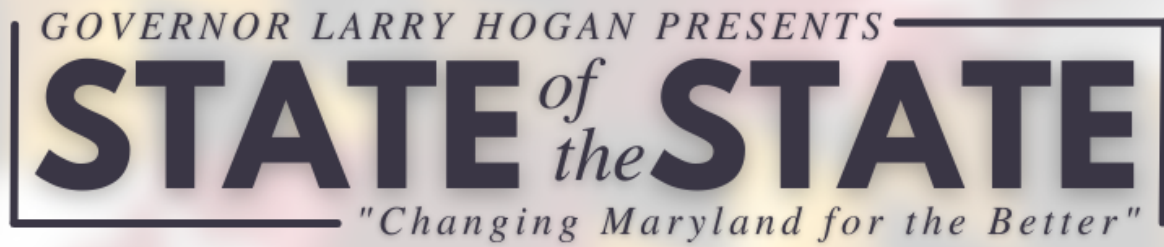
- Eliminates 100% of state retirement taxes in Maryland
- Provides \$4 billion in cumulative relief to deserving retirees
- Phased in over time using an income exclusion, and begins in tax year 2022

**\*\***In past years, the governor has been successful in enacting retirement tax relief for law enforcement and first responders, as well as military veterans, but to date the legislature has failed to act on broad-based relief for retirees.

### **WORKING MARYLANDERS TAX RELIEF ACT**

Governor Hogan urged legislative leaders to enact the Working Marylanders Tax Relief Act of 2022 to provide additional, permanent tax relief for working families.

- Makes permanent the enhanced earned income tax credit (EITC) in the RELIEF Act of 2021
- Provides working families with another \$650 million in cumulative tax relief



### **SMALL BUSINESS FEE RELIEF**

Governor Hogan called on members of the legislature to enact additional relief to help small businesses continue to grow.

- Eliminates filing fees for businesses that submit their annual report online with the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT)
- Eliminates \$300 annual filing fee for companies, LLCs, and other legal entities, and \$100 for family farms
- Makes Maryland the first state in the country to provide a zero-fee option for all businesses for this type of filing

### **MORE JOBS FOR MARYLANDERS ACT 3.0**

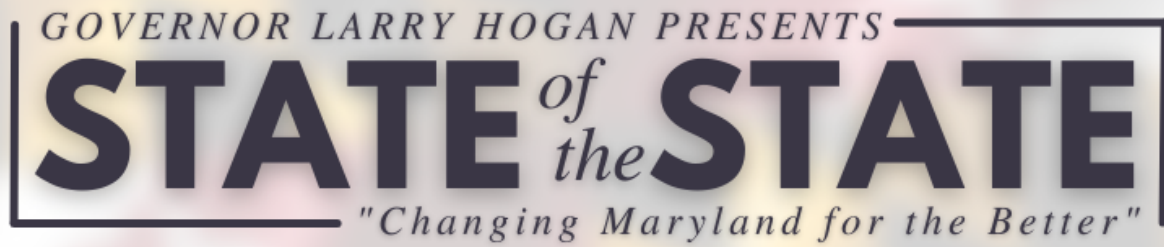
Governor Hogan detailed his new efforts to incentivize and encourage the creation of more jobs in areas that need them most.

- Extends the successful More Jobs for Marylanders program an additional five years, through 2027
- Provides tax incentives to new and existing manufacturers that locate or expand in Maryland

### **PROJECT RESTORE ACT**

Governor Hogan calls on the General Assembly to codify one of the state's successful COVID-19 economic recovery initiatives.

- Makes Project RESTORE permanent to provide financial assistance for small businesses and commercial developers to revitalize vacant retail and commercial space



## **COMBATING VIOLENT CRIME & SUPPORTING OUR POLICE**

*"People are being shot and are dying nearly every single day. It's time to put the politics aside and to finally get this done." —Governor Larry Hogan*

### **VIOLENT FIREARMS OFFENDER ACT**

Governor Hogan renewed his calls for legislators to take immediate action and pass the Violent Firearms Offender Act.

- Toughens penalties for offenders who use and illegally possess firearms, as well as those who illegally supply firearms to criminals
- Supported by more than 80% of Baltimore City residents and Marylanders statewide

### **JUDICIAL TRANSPARENCY ACT**

Governor Hogan renewed his calls for the General Assembly to enact the Judicial Transparency Act.

- Requires the Maryland State Commission on Criminal Sentencing Policy to track and publish detailed information on sentences that are handed down by judges for violent crimes
- Supported by more than 80% of Baltimore City residents and Marylanders statewide

### **RE-FUND THE POLICE INITIATIVE**

Governor Hogan highlighted his three-year, \$500 million Re-Fund The Police Initiative and pledged his continued support for the state's police and first responders.

- \$220 million for historic salary increases and bonuses for law enforcement officers to help ensure more competitive compensation and to help with recruitment and retention, as well as police scholarship programs
- \$137 million for a 50% increase in state police aid to local jurisdictions statewide

GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN PRESENTS

# STATE *of the* STATE

*"Changing Maryland for the Better"*

- \$50 million for major capital improvements for Maryland State Police barracks and a new tactical services building for the Special Operations Division
- \$37 million to fully fund victim services providers across the state
- \$30 million in Neighborhood Safety Grants to support hardware upgrades, lighting, cameras, and increased security services for community organizations, business districts, and main streets
- 100% state-funded match for all Crime Stoppers rewards that lead to arrests
- \$24 million to create a new Accountability Resources Fund, which will be used to provide more body cams, de-escalation training, and other critical tools for state and local police agencies
- \$1 million for the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association to further expand operational training and support
- Re-Fund The Police Act makes the increase in local aid permanent